different States and also that the cut-off year in Sikkim earlier than 1975 could not be, because the Chogyal's mountain Kingdom merged in India in that year; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Central team consisting of senior officers visited Gangtok in January, 1987 and discussed with the Chief Minister, Sikkim various aspects of the problem relating to 'stateless' citizens in Sikkim.

Import of capital and technology

810. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state·

(a) whether the former Union Cabinet Minister and a leading economist, Dr. V.K.R.V. Rao, While inaugurating the 8th World Economist Congress in Delhi in December last had warned that the present indiscriminate import of capital and technology would adversely affect India's credit-rating and may also plunge India into "debt-trap"; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction and response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao's speech delivered at the 8th World Economist Congress on 1st December, 1986, referred to in the Question, includes the following passage:—

"Import of Capital has to be paid for, and mostly at market rates; and our long standing record of credit-rating and avoidance of the debt trap may soon come to an end with our planned efforts to speed up development. Imported technology carries with it. Its own unwelcome conditions and gives no chance for its indigenisation and subsequent domestic development. Our balance of payments is getting out of gear. Export induced investments and operations may themselves induce more inputs, creating a vicious circle of imports chasing exports, even assuming that our export drive, shorn of incentives at the expense of public revenues and domestic requirements, will take off the ground and not fall a victim to the lure of a profitable elitist domestic market."

The above passage does not say that there is indiscriminate import of capital and technology at present. The improved access to imported technology and capital goods and other inputs implicit in recent policy measures for exporters was to enable increased exports.

Loss of forest land

811. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an area of more than 43 lakh hectares of forest land has been lost till date since 1952 and furthermore nearly 7 lakh hectares of forest land is under encroachment in various States and Union Territories; and

(b) if so, what are the details and consequences thereof?

TEH MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir.